U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
E17621 - Spike Drilling Tank Battery Oil Spill - Removal Polrep
Initial Removal Polrep

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region VI

Subject: **POLREP #1**
Initial POLREP
E17621 - Spike Drilling Tank Battery Oil Spill

Damon, TX
Latitude: 29.3060170 Longitude: -95.6681250

To: Reggie Cheatham, Office of Emergency Management
Craig Carroll, EPA R6-EMB
Anthony Buck, TCEQ ER

From: Roberto Bernier, FOSC
Date: 6/10/2017
Reporting Period: 09-10 June 2017

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:		**Contract Number:**	
D.O. Number:		**Action Memo Date:**	
Response Authority:	OPA	**Response Type:**	Emergency
Response Lead:	PRP	**Incident Category:**	
NPL Status:		**Operable Unit:**	
Mobilization Date:	6/9/2017	**Start Date:**	6/4/2017
Demob Date:		**Completion Date:**	
CERCLIS ID:		**RCRIS ID:**	
ERNS No.:		**State Notification:**	
FPN#:	E17621	**Reimbursable Account #:**	

1.1.1 Incident Category
Oil Spill and Discharge. RP lead Emergency Response.

1.1.2 Site Description
The facility is an inactive tank battery consisting of 4 tanks, 2 for produced water and 2 for crude oil with no secondary containment around the tanks. The incident was not reported to the NRC. On June 9, almost a week after the spill, a game warden with TX Parks & Wildlife call the EPA-R6 Emergency Management Branch and requested assistance with the response.

1.1.2.1 Location
The tank battery is located near the end of Knolle Road, Damon, Fort Bend County, Texas (latitude 29.306017, longitude -95.668125). The area is rural with scattered residences. The closest residence is 1200 feet to the east of the tanks.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat
The spill pathway is overland to a drainage swale and west to roadside ditches along Knolle Road and an unnamed creek. The unnamed creek discharges to Cow Creek, then to Turkey Creek, a tributary to the Brazos River. The crude oil followed the spill pathway approximately 0.6 miles before it entered Cow Creek. Approximately 4 miles of Cow Creek was impacted. Oil staining was observed on the banks of Cow Creek to where it meets turkey Creek within 3.3 miles of the Brazos River that flows into the Gulf of New Mexico. Cow Creek flows year around and is a waters of the United States.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results
START arrived on site the afternoon of June 9, with the FOSC arriving in the morning of June 10. The spill occurred through a failed fitting on one of the produced water tanks. The spill initially impacted the adjacent hay field and surface drainage features to the west of the tank battery. Rain fall on the evening of June 4th caused the spilled oil travel through the drainage ditches, an unnamed creek, and into Cow Creek. Approximately 4.3 miles of Cow Creek have been impacted and still had pockets of oil . The impact is from the culvert where the spill entered the creek to the confluence with Turkey Creek. The RP's response contractor was currently washing and flushing the banks of Cow Creek and the drainage upstream from the creek, and collecting oil from the hay field. The majority of the affected soil in the hay field had been scraped and staged by the tank battery to later determine the best course of action in consultation with the State.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative
On Sunday June 4, 2017, a spill occurred releasing an estimated 130 Barrels of crude oil and 130 barrels of produced water. The spill impacted the field and drainages to the west of the tank battery. That evening heavy rains moved oil into Cow Creek.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date
A response contractor has been retained by RP representatives. They have added booms along the entire affected path of the discharge to prevent oil from traveling further downstream. Sixteen loads of oil water mixture has been removed and sent to a disposal facility and 2 roll off boxes have been filled with impacted soil. Pockets of free oil is being removed from the field with vacuum trucks as it seeps to collection points. The banks of the unnamed creek and Cow Creek are being washed to move oil to collection points. Four collection points have been established in Cow Creek and one in the unnamed creek.

As of June 10, the contractor has increased the number of response personnel to 83, mostly to address the remaining oil staining on the banks and recover a few pockets of weathered oil along the impacted length of creek. At this time the main activity is washing and flushing the creek banks to prevent additional oil bleeding from stained vegetation. The banks are at a 45 degree or less angle and lined with mowed grass, thus easily accessible by the crews. Although pockets of oil remain in the creek, the main impact appears to be from the salt water that left a grass kill zone between 6" to as wide as 2 feet in at least 4 miles of creek. The remaining oil stained vegetation is scattered in creek sections totaling less than a mile with some weathered oil scattered in small pockets at various locations. In anticipation of heavy rains, a barrier berm is being built on the field at the tank battery site to prevent runoff that could come into contact with contaminated soil from reaching the drainage ditch that leads into the creek. The field is where the majority of the free oil was initially recovered. A soil remediation plan is being developed by the TX Railroad Commission who regulates oil and gas production in the state.

2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)
The responsible party is the owner and/or operator of the tank battery identified as Spike Drilling & Operating LLC, out of Connecticut

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

Waste Stream	*Medium*	*Quantity*	*Manifest #*	*Treatment*	*Disposal*
Oil & Produced Water	soil & water	2,080 bbls			XX
Contaminated Soil	soil	30 cu/yds			XX

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities
Continue washing creek banks, flushing and recovery of free oil at creek and drainage, and recover free oil from pockets at field.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities
RP will be contacted to remove liquids from the spill source tank, that is still dripping oil and produced water from the damaged pipe.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps
Once all recoverable oil is removed, the response will change into a maintenance phase, leaving booms in place and collecting any accumulated oil from expected bleeding effect from collection points. A soil remediation plan is being coordinated with the TX Railroad Commission.

2.2.2 Issues
Remove remaining free oil from field so forecasted rains do not impact waterways down gradient. Liquids in inactive tanks are not being monitored and could posse a threat of future unmonitored release.

2.3 Logistics Section
No information available at this time.

2.4 Finance Section
No information available at this time.

2.5 Other Command Staff
No information available at this time.

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

3.2 Cooperating Agencies
Texas Parks and Wildlife
Texas Railroad Commission
Fort Bend County Emergency Manager - 1
Fort Bend County Environmental District - 1

4. Personnel On Site
EPA FOSC - 1
EPA START - 2
TXRRC - 2
TX P&W - 1

RP Response Contractor - 83

5. Definition of Terms
No information available at this time.

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report
https://response.epa.gov/site/sitrep_profile.aspx?site_id=12235&counter=28805

6.2 Reporting Schedule

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.